

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all of the claims pending in the application.

By this amendment, Applicants note that the claims have been amended in a non-narrowing manner so as to remove the claims from possible interpretation under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, it is the Applicants intention that claims 1-20 are not to be interpreted as means/step-plus-function type claims. Applicants note that these claim amendments have not been made in response to any prior art or other rejection.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is kindly requested. If there are any issues which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Shiro IWASAKI et al.

By: Kenneth W. Fields
Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicants

KWF/dib
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
December 29, 2005